

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process for the oligomerization of  $\alpha$ -olefins having at least three carbon atoms, in which the olefin is brought into contact with a catalyst system obtainable from

- a) at least one chromium source[[],];
- b) at least one ligand of the formula I



where  $R^1$  to  $R^3$  are each, independently of one another,  $C_4$ - $C_{30}$ -alkyl which has no  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$  or  $\gamma$  branching,

[[R<sup>a</sup>]]  $R^A$  is an organic group having from 1 to 30 carbon atoms which is bound via a silicon atom or a carbon atom, and

$p$  is from 0 to 6[[],]; and

- c) at least one activator comprising a boron compound, with the molar ratio of B:Cr being at least 5.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the activator further comprises an alkylaluminum compound.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The process as claimed in claim 2, wherein the activator comprises a trialkylaluminum and an alkylaluminum halide.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ligand of formula I is 1,3,5-tri-n-dodecyl-1,3,5-triazacyclohexane is used as ligand.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the boron compound has the formula  $BZ_3$  and/or  $Cat^{\oplus} BZ_4^{\ominus}$ , where Z is an electron-withdrawing radical and  $Cat^{\oplus}$  is a cation.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The process as claimed in claim 5, wherein the boron compound is selected from the group consisting of trispentafluorophenylborane, N,N-dimethylanilinium tetrakis(pentafluorophenyl)borate, tri-n-butylammonium tetrakis(pentafluorophenyl)borate, N,N-dimethylanilinium tetrakis(3,5-bis(pentafluoromethyl)phenyl)borate, tri-n-butylammonium tetrakis(3,5-bis(pentafluoromethyl)phenyl)borate, and tritylium tetrakis(pentafluorophenyl)borate, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the olefin is 1-butene is used as olefin.

Claim 8 (New): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the chromium source is selected from the group consisting of chromium(II) compounds, chromium(III) compounds, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 9 (New): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the chromium source is  $\text{CrCl}_3$ .

Claim 10 (New): The process as claimed in claim 2, wherein the alkylaluminum compound is selected from the group consisting of trimethylaluminum, triethylaluminum, tri-n-propylaluminum, triisopropylaluminum, tri-n-butylaluminum, triisobutylaluminum, diethylaluminum chloride, diethylaluminum bromide, diethylaluminum ethoxide, diethylaluminum phenoxide, and ethylaluminum ethoxide fluoride.

Claim 11 (New): The process as claimed in claim 3, wherein the trialkylaluminum is selected from the group consisting of trimethylaluminum, triethylaluminum, tri-n-propylaluminum, triisopropylaluminum, tri-n-butylaluminum, and triisobutylaluminum.

Claim 12 (New): The process as claimed in claim 3, wherein the alkylaluminum halide is selected from the group consisting of diethylaluminum chloride, ethylaluminum dichloride, and diethylaluminum bromide.

Claim 13 (New): The process as claimed in claim 3, wherein a molar ratio of the trialkylaluminum to the alkylaluminum halide is 1-50:1.

Claim 14 (New): The process as claimed in claim 3, wherein a molar ratio of the trialkylaluminum to the alkylaluminum halide is 3-20:1.

Claim 15 (New): The process as claimed in claim 2, wherein a molar ratio of the chromium source to the alkylaluminum compound ranges from 1:1 to 1:200.

Claim 16 (New): The process as claimed in claim 2, wherein a molar ratio of the chromium source to the alkylaluminum compound ranges from 1:5 to 1:100.

Claim 17 (New): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the oligomerization is performed at a temperature ranging from 0 to 120°C, and at a pressure ranging from ambient pressure to 120°C.

Claim 18 (New): The process as claimed in claim 17, wherein the temperature ranges from 25 to 110°C.

Claim 19 (New): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the oligomerization is performed under a protective gas.

Claim 20 (New): The process as claimed in claim 19, wherein the protective gas is selected from the group consisting of nitrogen and argon.